REMARKS

In the claims, "comprising" has been substituted for "consisting of" and in some cases has been substituted for "having" and "is" in order to clarify the subject matter of the claims. "Coupled" and "coupling" have been substituted for "connected" and "connecting" in order to clarify the subject matter of the claims.

The Summary of the Invention has been rewritten to be consistent with the pending claims.

Responding to paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, claim 11 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 13 has been amended like claim 11. The Examiner's rejection based on further definition of "W channels" in claim 13 is respectfully traversed. With respect to W, claim 13 provides that "each of the other of the nodes is coupled to the hub node by a multichannel link comprising *W* channels, where *W* is an even integer..." This language is more than sufficient under 35 U.S.C. 112 to define what the W channels are and where they are located, i.e., coupled to the hub node.

Claim 14 reads in part: "In a network comprising *N* nodes and *E* links e_1, e_2, ...e_E, wherein *N* and *E* are any integer and wherein each link between nodes comprises a multichannel multiplexed link, comprising *W* channels {0, 1, ..., W – 1}, where *W* is even... " This language is more than sufficient under 35 U.S.C. 112 to define N and E and W. As a practical matter, N and E are not limited to a particular range technically. To so limit claim 14 would mislead the public about the nature of the invention defined by claim 14. As to what W channels are, channel is a well known term in the art.

Anyone skilled in the art will have a clear understanding of a channel. Regarding where the W channels are located, claim 14 states that each link between nodes N comprises a multichannel multiplexed link comprising W channels. Thus, the channels are in the links between nodes N. This clearly defines where the channels are located. See also the comments with respect to claim 13 regarding W.

Claim 16 is limited like claim 14 with respect to N and E and W and is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112 for the same reasons as claim 14.

Responding to paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,585, "Yamamoto") or Brewer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,694, "Brewer") is respectfully traversed.

Pending claim 14 reads (emphasis supplied):

14. In a network comprising *N* nodes and *E* links e_1, e_2, ...e_E, wherein *N* and *E* are any integer and wherein each link between nodes comprises a multichannel multiplexed link, comprising *W* channels {0, 1, ..., W – 1}, where *W* is even, a method of configuring the nodes in the network comprising:

(a) grouping channels into two sets, $\{0,\ldots,W/2-1\}$ and $\{W/2,\ldots,W-1\}$; and

(b) at each node, for *i* = 0, 1, ..., W/2 – 1, coupling channel *i* on one link to channel *w(i)* on all the other links incident on that node, where *w(i)* = *i* + W/2.

Yamamoto does not teach or suggest at least the underlined portions of claim 14. Regarding limitations (a) and (b) of claim 14, the Examiner states (emphasis supplied):

> Yamamoto et al. discloses a method and network for interconnecting N nodes via links with at least 2 channels connecting all nodes to one another...

However, claim 14 is limited to grouping channels into two sets, which is not taught or suggested by Yamamoto. In addition, claim 14 is not limited to "connecting all nodes to one another," as stated by the Examiner, but rather "coupling channel *i* on one link to channel *w(i)* on all the other links incident on that node, where $w(i) = i + W/2$. This concept also is not taught or suggested by Yamamoto. Claim 14 is allowable over Yamamoto for all these reasons.

Brewer does not teach or suggest at least the underlined portions of claim 14. Regarding limitations (a) and (b) of claim 14, the Examiner states (emphasis supplied):

> Brewer et al. discloses a method and network for interconnecting N nodes via links with at least 2 channels connecting all nodes to one another...

However, claim 14 is limited to grouping channels into two sets, which is not taught or suggested by Brewer. In addition, claim 14 is not limited to "connecting all nodes to one another," as stated by the Examiner, but rather "coupling channel *i* on one link to channel *w(i)* on all the other links incident on that node, where $w(i) = i + W/2$. This concept also is not taught or suggested by Brewer. Claim 14 is allowable over Brewer for all these reasons.

With respect to limitation (b) of claim 14, claim 16 is limited in an analogous manner to claim 14 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 14.

Responding to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner's indication that claims 11 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 11 and 13 have been rewritten in part as explained in response to paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action.

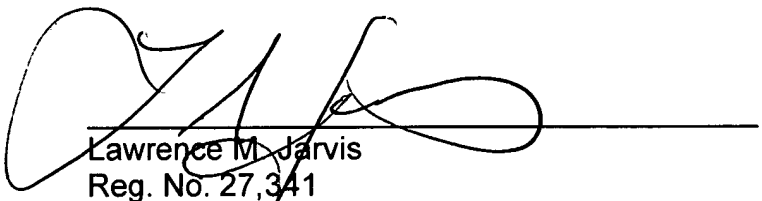
Responding to paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the allowance of claims 17-31 is gratefully acknowledged.

For all the foregoing reasons, all claims now pending in this application, claims 11, 13-14, and 16-31 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

If the foregoing remarks are not deemed to put the application in condition for allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner telephone the undersigned and arrange a time for a telephone interview.

Date: June 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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